

REMARKS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action issued October 4, 2005 requiring an election between four different groups of claims, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the subject matter of claims 8-12, drawn to a blank, for further prosecution in the subject application.

Initially, the examiner raises a question with regard to the status of claims 8-12, since the Preliminary Amendment filed did not specifically refer to these claims. The Examiner is correct in that the Preliminary Amendment filed October 24, 2003 cancelled claims 1-7 and 13-16, leaving claims 8-12, relating to the blank, as well as claims 17-43, relating to various methods. The intention was for claims 8-12 to remain pending. To be complete, an Amendment is provided herewith indicating the status of claims 8-12, and amending claim 8 to be an independent claim. As well, a new fee worksheet is being provided herewith in order to pay for the independent claim 8 and dependent claims 9-12. We believe this should now create an accurate record.

As noted above, Applicants do elect claims 8-12 for further prosecution in the subject application. This election has been made with traverse as it is believed that there is sufficient interrelationship between the various groups of claims to warrant examination in but a single application. Since a single comprehensive search would cover all the groups of claims, it is believed that administrative benefits would be realized if all of the claims were examined in a single application.

Favorable reconsideration of the restriction requirement and an examination on the merits of all of the claims of record are therefore respectfully requested, and are believed to be next in order. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned local counsel to Applicants at 703-838-6622.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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